

Creative Writing

Course Instructor and Communications

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<p>Phone calls are welcomed and will usually be answered within 24 hours or less. My phone number will be provided after enrollment.</p>
<p>E-mails are welcomed and will usually be responded to within 24 hours or less. Please include <u>Creative Writing</u> in the subject line, particularly for a problem. My e-mail will be provided after enrollment.</p>
<p>Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: I am available from 10:25-11:13 and 1:27-2:15 and at other times by prior arrangement. During this time, I will be available to email and/or have synchronous meetings with students via phone, chat, video conferencing, etc.</p>
<p>Teacher Contact Time: I will generally provide a weekly progress report to students via JMC. In short weeks, this may vary. In addition to my online office hours, students should feel free to contact me via email/phone and expect a response within 24 hours or less during the week, likely longer during the weekend. Assignments will typically be graded and returned within 72 hours of submission, and discussion posts within 24 hours or less.</p>
<p>Student to Teacher Communications: Students are expected to log in daily, submit assignments promptly, respond to any online correspondence, and participate in discussion posts. If at any time you need assistance, contact me immediately - it will save you time!</p>
<p>Student Attendance Expectations: I determine online student attendance by tracking their engagement and progress in the course. This is considered performance-based attendance. Your attendance in the online class is a requirement to complete the course successfully, and makes the class engaging and exciting for everyone who is enrolled in this class!</p> <p>You will be counted as in attendance if you log in daily, participate in the required discussions each week and reply to others as directed, complete all reading/course activities by the completion date, take all assessments and quizzes, submit assignments and papers by the required date, and complete exams as directed.</p> <p>Your attendance will also be measured by a timely response to my communications as follows: 24 hours response to a voicemail or email and response within the time period expected as requested by me for resubmission of work and/or other requests. This means you need to check your course, email, and voicemail daily and reply to messages promptly. I expect to hear from you, and likewise, welcome your calls and emails.</p> <p>Moodle has features that allow instructors to see when the last time students logged in, which pages they visited, their activity in the course, and other details. Generally, students who have not logged in will be reminded after two days of inactivity. After one reminder with no response, the student's parents and the counselor from their home district will be notified. The district contact, the OLL course instructor, and the student will develop a plan that will help the student get back on track. If you will be absent for any period of time, please notify me as soon as possible. Should you begin to fall behind, please contact me immediately so we can work together to get you back on track!</p> <p>Withdrawal due to Non Attendance:</p>

We are required by law to drop students if they have not been “attending” for 15 school days. For online programs, this generally means 15 school days without any activity. In online learning “attendance” is defined by engagement with course materials and assignments, and interaction with the teacher and other students in the course. Examples include: logging on, submitting assignments, verbal or written contact with the instructor, or other activities as defined by the online learning program.

Academic Support:

Academic support is available from a variety of sources. If you feel you are struggling, you can always ask me for additional support. I will initiate communication with you, and your parent/guardian, if I detect you may be struggling and will work to address any issues while they are small and easier to deal with. The next step will be to communicate my concerns to your MRVED Online Learning Site Facilitator. If you feel you need academic support beyond what I provide, contact the MRVED Online Learning Site Facilitator at your school.

Communication with Enrolling (Home) District:

Progress Reports:

Instructors will provide adequate feedback throughout the course so the student, parent, and school are kept abreast on progress. Official grades are required to be reported at mid-quarter, quarter, and semester based on our course schedule. Please note: Your grading period in your home district may not be the same as this course. Your school is aware of this and you will not be penalized if grading periods do not line up.

Final Grades and Submissions:

Final grades are reported to your local school as a letter grade. Grades will be based on the online teacher’s assessment of your work and the degree to which you have met course requirements.

Course Outline

Title: Creative Writing	Iseek Course Number: NA
Pre-requisites: None	Credits: .5

Course Description:

Creative writing will introduce students to the process and techniques of writing. Students will experiment with various types of writing, including the writing of fiction, creative nonfiction, plays, and poetry. Class readings will expose students to various writing styles and provide examples of the successes and strategies of other writers. Time will be spent discussing the writer’s craft, the assigned readings, and student writing.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Students will understand and use effective creative writing strategies and structures.

Students will gain experience at each stage of the writing process.

Projected Units of Study:

- Strategies:
 - Energy
 - Images

- Tension
- Pattern
- Insight
- Structures:
 - Elements
 - Forms

Required books and/or educational materials:

- Access to a computer with an internet connection
- *The Practice of Creative Writing: A Guide for Students* by Heather Sellers (2008)

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Standards Addressed in Course:

- 11.7.3.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
 - a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one of multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
 - b. Use literary and narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm, repetition, rhyme, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
 - c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery suspense, growth, or resolution).
 - d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, figurative and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
 - e. Provide a conclusion (when appropriate to the genre) that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative or creative text.
- 11.7.4.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 11.7.5.5 Use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
- 11.7.6.6 Use technology, including the internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
- 11.7.10.10 Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- 11.11.1.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing.
- 11.11.2.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- 1.11.3.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
- 11.11.5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Minimum Technical Requirements:

Moodle, the course management system in use by the MRVED Online Program, seems to work best in the Firefox or Chrome browser. You can download the current version of Firefox or Chrome from the links below. Apple's Safari browser is not recommended because it has compatibility issues with Moodle.

[Google Chrome](#)

[Mozilla Firefox](#)

Technical Capability Expectations:

You are expected to be competent at using the Internet, including downloading and uploading files. A valid email address is necessary for student/teacher communication, and you are expected to be able to access your e-mail account, and send/receive e-mail attachments. In addition, some courses may require that students be able to use word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. **In this class, if you use Google Docs to complete your work, you will need to go to File--Download As--Microsoft Word (.docx) in order to attach the assignment to the Moodle dropbox.**

Students registering for online classes should have **daily access to a computer** and a reliable Internet connection. This class will have homework, just as other classes, as not all work required for this class will likely be able to be done during one class period per day all the time. I would also suggest you have a flash drive to enable you to work on assignments in the event you are unable to access the Internet for any reason.

Hardware:

You can access MRVED Online courses from any computer that is able to run a modern browser, but at a minimum you'll want:

Operating System: Windows: 2000, XP, or Vista; Macintosh: OS 9.1 or OS X

Processor: Windows: Pentium 233 or higher; Macintosh: Power PC G3 or higher

Memory: 128 MB minimum; 256 MB or greater recommended

Internet connection: 56 Kbps modem minimum; broadband -- DSL or cable -- recommended

A sound card and speakers: Up-to-date sound card and speakers are recommended. Using a headset with microphone is the best way of attending a class session that requires sound if you are in public. Individual instructors may have additional requirements, depending on the content of the course. If you are unsure if your computer setup is adequate, contact the instructor of the course you wish you take before registering.

Final Exam: N/A

Assessment of Student Work: Your work in this course will be graded as follows:

A	93%-100%	B	83%-86%	C	73%-76%	D	63%-66%
A-	90%-92%	B-	80%-82%	C-	70%-72%	D-	60%-62%
B+	87%-89%	C+	77%-79%	D+	67%-69%	F	0%-59%

Description of Assignment Types & Weights (If applicable):

Forum (Discussion) Posts:

-Daily Posts with Daily Writing Goals

-Reading Reflections

Journal Exercises

-Practices from the book

-Writing Projects from the book

Revising and Editing Exercises

Policy for Missed Exams and Late Assignments:

Your work should be completed to the best of your ability and turned in on time. Please be sure to read the assignment directions carefully.

When an assignment is due, but not submitted, it will automatically be scored as a “0”. You have three days to submit your work and will lose one grade from the grade you earn for each day it is late. I will not accept work after three days. If an exam is not taken within three days of when it is scheduled to be taken, you will lose your opportunity to take it. Given that the course is web-based, you can access it from most anywhere. You should make sure you have a **back-up plan** [i.e., going to the library/using a friend’s computer] to ensure submission of your work in a timely manner. “My computer crashed” and other similar excuses won’t be accepted. This is a good reason not to wait until the last minute to do your work. Procrastination can create stress and frustration that you can do without.

Academic Dishonesty:

Student honesty is expected in completing homework, tests, research or other performance assessments. Therefore:

- *Students shall not knowingly cheat on assignments or tests. Students shall not allow other students to use their original work.*
- *Students shall not tamper with grade books or computer files. Students shall not falsify records, or falsify signatures.*
- *Students shall not plagiarize—the definition of plagiarism is copying or using another’s ideas, concepts, facts, and/or words as though they are your own. For example, copying information in reports without giving proper credit.*
- *Consequences: Cases involving academic dishonesty may be handled by the classroom teacher or may be referred to the administration.*
 - *At the very least, you will receive no credit for an assignment if dishonesty is involved.*

Consequences may include no credit for the assignment, suspension, removal from the class with no credit, and/or possible criminal charges, depending on the severity of the violation of this rule.

Netiquette - Behavioral Expectations in Online Courses

Polite and respectful discourse in the classroom is expected and virtually everyone respects and observes it. During this class, we may sometimes be discussing matters about which some people hold strong opinions. It will be crucial to the success of the course that everyone is able to question and closely examine the matters we will be discussing in an atmosphere of friendliness, mutual respect, and emotional safety.

Messages which are disrespectful, rude, impolite, combative, unfriendly, or sexually/racially inappropriate will not be tolerated, whether in our classroom, or private postings between classmates. Any messages which, in the instructor's judgment, violate this policy will be immediately deleted. If anyone in class sends inappropriate or unpleasant posts, please notify me immediately so that the matter can be dealt with directly. You have every right to not respond to such posts. We should all be aware that all email messages (including those posted to the classroom and those posted privately) are, essentially public communications. Only those in our class will likely read them, but other people theoretically could read them. You may want to keep this in mind whenever you send email messages to anyone.

Anyone who posts such a message risks consequences as deemed appropriate by the instructor which, at minimum, includes: deleting the post, no credit for the assignment, suspension, removal from the class with no credit, and/or possible criminal charges, depending on the severity of the violation.

The Ten Commandments for Classroom Communications

1. Read the messages you receive carefully to make sure you understand what is being said.
2. Read your responses after you finish typing them. Look for typos, but also read with your reader's eyes. Is there any way your words could be misunderstood? If so, rewrite.
3. Humor and sarcasm are easily misunderstood. Use an emoticon to let your reader know you are smiling.
☺
4. It may be helpful to point out mistakes others make, but be gentle. You might make a mistake someday, too.
5. Limit each message to one subject only. Readers often miss the second subject in a long message.
6. **DON'T TYPE A WHOLE MESSAGE IN UPPER CASE LETTERS. NOT ONLY IS UPPER CASE HARDER TO READ, BUT UPPER CASE IS THE ELECTRONIC FORM OF SHOUTING!**
Would you shout at your instructor or classmates in a physical classroom?
7. Avoid assuming everyone was born in the United States and has English as his/her first language. Make allowances for possible misunderstandings and unintended discourtesies.
8. Different colors and fonts can be fun and can help organize a message, but be sure your choices work for your message. Very light colors, very small type and very busy fonts are hard to read.
9. Avoid using a lot of arrows, stars, exclamation points, and the like. These can distract from your message.
10. Remember you are writing to communicate your ideas. If your readers don't understand your ideas as you intend them to be understood, you need to rewrite.